

Submitter: Robert Reeves

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

Dear Oregon lawmakers:

Back in June 2023, my girlfriend and I went to the Gorge in Washington to experience our first music festival, Beyond Wonderland. We have been to several smaller shows in Portland, so we were very excited to experience something we loved doing on a larger scale.

Just as we watched the final performance of day 1 of the festival, we heard an eerie announcement to get back to our campsites safe. I've heard similar announcements, but they don't usually sound as ominous as this one did, so on the long hike to our camp site, I was a little thrown off. The hike felt 10 times longer than it was, as I saw people looking anxious, crying, running, and panicking. At this point, I had no idea that within a half mile, someone had just shot and killed two women. Then I heard someone say there was a shooter.

Just writing this experience makes me anxious. It's a terrifying thing to be that close to. I was never really afraid of guns or crowds prior to this incident. And while I wasn't even near the gunfire, and couldn't even hear it due to the loud music, I felt helpless and scared. It's been nearly two years, and I'm still afraid of crowds. And because change hasn't happened, I think nearly every day about how those women were killed and how that day it could have been me that died at Beyond Wonderland two years ago.

I urge you to pass HB3076. We should be able to live, go to concerts or crowds, and not have to worry about being killed by someone with far too easy access to a deadly weapon.